

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPIC-03 /071 W

----- 102813

R 281941Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1907

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

ZNE/AMCONSUL OPORTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 1144

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PO, SP, PFOR

SUBJ: CHEMSEARCH LABOR DISPUTE SETTLED

REFS: (A) LISBON 1068; (B) MADRID 1366

SUMMARY: THE CHEMSEARCH ESPANOLA LABOR PROBLEM IS REPORTEDLY SETTLED SATISFACTORILY. TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE INDICATIVE OF A TREND FOR INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE SPANISH/PORTUGUESE RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. CHEMSEARCH ESPANOLA OFFICIAL ALF JOHNSEN INFORMED EMBASSY FEB 28 THAT FOLLOWING 12 DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH WORKERS A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT MINISTRY OF LABOR. FORTY-ONE UNNECESSARY EMPLOYEES WILL BE RELEASED UPON PAYMENT OF LEGAL INDEMNIZATIONS AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY \$58,000. MINISTRY ALSO UNDERTOOK COMMITMENT THAT DISSIDENT WORKERS OCCUPYING OFFICES OF CHEMSEARCH'S LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES WILL BE REMOVED. JOHNSEN STATED LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES ARE NOW IN GOOD BUSINESS CONDITION.

2. JOHNSEN INDICATED THAT LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS PLAYED HELPFUL ROLE AND WERE HIGHLY APOLOGITIC ABOUT "CONFUSION" WHICH HAD EARLIER PREVENTED DEPARTURE OF JOHNSEN AND HIS SPANISH
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BUSINESS PARTNER FROM PORTUGAL. JOHNSEN STATED PROLONGED LABOR

DISPUTE WAS PRIMARILY RESULT OF WELL-ORGANIZED DISSIDENT GROUP
OF WORKERS WHO WISHED TO FORCE CLOSING OF LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES.

3. JOHNSEN MOST APPRECIATIVE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM
WITH AMBASSADOR AND FOR EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF.

4. EMBASSY NOTES THAT SPANISH PRESS COVERAGE OF MATTER, REPORTED
REF (B), STATED THAT JOHNSEN AND SPANISH PARTNER, ARMEDO, WERE
DETAINED IN HOTEL BY COPCON GUARDS. MILITARY POLICE ACTUALLY WERE
PLACED AT HOTEL AFTER MANAGERS' DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
SOARES TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR DISPUTES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750072-0134
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975023/aaaaacmd.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 1068, 75 MADRID 1366
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHEMSEARCH LABOR DISPUTE SETTLED
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, PO, SP, CHEMSEARCH CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006